

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Epidemiology in September

An investigation of an outbreak of acute enteritis in a hop picking camp was undertaken. About 800 people occupied the camp and infection spread to about 10 per cent of the occupants. The exact type of infection was not determined but apparently it was a mild type of bacillary dysentery. Very insanitary conditions were encountered together with a questionable water supply. The hop picking season came to an abrupt end and the camp will not be used until next year. Steps have been taken to improve the sanitary condition of the camp. An outbreak of dysentery in a family of Japanese who had just returned from a visit to the Hawaiian Islands was undertaken. Infection proved, upon laboratory examination, to be bacillary dysentery of the Flexner type. One of the four cases involved proved fatal.

EPIDEMIC POLIOMYELITIS

At the request of the health officer, seven cases of this disease were investigated in one of the southern counties. All cases were in infants and young children living in an insanitary camp. It was recommended that the camp be closed or put in good sanitary condition and a safe water supply provided.

TULAREMIA

Three cases of this disease were investigated in Lassen County. One was a typical case.

TYPHOID FEVER

Considerable typhoid fever was encountered during the month, one outbreak involving twelve cases and another involving sixteen cases were investigated. One of these groups of cases probably had its source in a raw milk supply. Secondary cases occurred which were due to undetected or home-treated cases in the family. Another group of ten cases occurred in individuals who had been living in auto camps at various sea beaches. Another group of cases occurred in a Japanese family, one of whom is probably a carrier. Another group of typhoid cases probably had as its source an individual who contracted the disease on an automobile trip into Mexico.

TYPHUS FEVER

Four cases of typhus fever were reported from Los Angeles city.

GENERAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

The incidence of reportable diseases is normal for this season of the year with the exception of mumps and whooping cough, both of which are epidemic. There is also a high incidence of scarlet fever.

FOOD AND DRUG INSPECTION REPORTS

Several lots of dried fruit previously placed in quarantine were checked and released for stock feed. One lot of 425 pounds of prunes was destroyed as unfit for food purposes. Dried figs in the San Joaquin

area were checked for the purpose of eliminating the shipment of off-grade products into the large retail markets. A plan has been set up between the fig industry and the federal government for the diversion and disposition of figs testing below 65 per cent. A complete survey of the San Joaquin district has been made. Several lots of cull figs testing below 25 per cent were located and placed in quarantine until plans are developed for disposal as stock feed.

WINE SURVEY

Wineries throughout the state have been inspected and reinspected and hearings have been held on practically all samples of substandard wine that have been found. Following the hearings lots that have been placed in quarantine have been either blended or distilled, according to the requirements in each individual case. When lots are blended, the resultant blends are held in quarantine pending laboratory analyses. Notarized affidavits of disposition are required in cases that involve the distillation of substandard wines. Steps are being taken to dispose of all substandard wines that have been placed in quarantine during the past six months.

"ON SALE" INSPECTIONS

There has been increased activity in inspections of "on sale" establishments with the result that many violations involving refilled bottles of imported brandies and cognac were encountered.

RECTIFYING PLANTS

Sixty rectifying plants in northern California were inspected during September. Samples were taken and reports made covering sanitary conditions, kind and sources of raw materials, manufacturing methods, formulas and labels.

FOOD PRODUCTS DESTROYED

Large quantities of the following food products were destroyed during September as unfit for food: claret, sauterne, port, tokay, muscat, zinfandel, honey and red wine. These involved more than 150,000 gallons. In addition to wines, Japanese clams, apple rings, prunes, and other products were destroyed.

PROSECUTIONS

During September nine cases were prosecuted in local courts. These involved wines, brandy, eggs, and other products. A verdict of guilty was found in each case and fines ranging from \$25 to \$150 were imposed.

Bureau of Cannery Inspection Reports

TOMATOES

September brought the tomato packing season into full swing in northern California. The prolonged hot

weather caused sun scald in some districts, resulting in many rejections. Little trouble due to mold or worm infestation was encountered. There is a marked improvement in the production of tomato juice. An increase is noted in the production of the Italian or pear-shaped tomato. This quality is in great favor with the manufacturers of tomato paste. In general, the system of inspection has worked out satisfactorily with the full support of growers and packers. A cooperative plan with federal inspectors has also worked out favorably.

FISH

Large quantities of sardines, tuna and mackerel were packed during the month. The quality of fish, in general, was not as good as is usually received at this season. A large amount of fish was condemned, only a wholesome product being permitted to enter the packing houses. Most of the bonita, bluefin and tuna came from local waters. Good catches involving short hauls enabled the boats to make deliveries of first class fish.

OTHER PRODUCTS

Among other products inspected during the month were animal food, kidney beans, lima beans, pork and beans, pumpkin, string beans, vegetable salad, peas and carrots, hominy, onions, olives, mushrooms, and other vegetable products.

Sanitary Inspections in September

RODENT SURVEY

During September the rodent survey was carried on by this bureau in portions of Santa Cruz, Monterey, Placer and San Bernardino counties. A total of 1121 miscellaneous rodents was collected and examined. In addition to these, large numbers of fleas were combed from the rodents that were taken. In addition to the survey a rodent control force inspected 3859 acres and reinspected more than 56,000 acres, treating them with poison for the purpose of exterminating rodents.

STATE FAIR SANITATION

At the request of the State Agricultural Society, the supervision of sanitation at the State Fair in Sacramento was undertaken by this bureau. All food supply places, restaurants, lunch counters and refreshment stands were inspected frequently each day. All foods were protected by metal screens or glass partitions and in most places refreshments were served in paper cups. With the cooperation of officials, particularly that of the secretary, Mr. Charles W. Paine, a high standard of sanitation was maintained. No complaints regarding sanitary conditions were received, in spite of the fact that more than 600,000 individuals attended the fair.

DOMESTIC SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Investigations into domestic sewage disposal and stream pollution were undertaken in Sonoma and Lake counties.

SANITATION OF BEACHES

At the request of local officials investigations were made into sanitary conditions on the following ocean beaches: Moss, Princeton, Half Moon Bay and Tunitas. Evidence of pollution by garbage and other waste was found on one of these beaches and the others were fairly clean.

SANITATION ALONG THE HIGHWAYS

More than 160 eating places and 128 service stations along the state highways were inspected during September. Following is a detail of the highways inspected:

- U. S. highway 99 E through Placer County from the Sacramento County line to the Yuba County line.
- U. S. highway 99 E through Yuba County from the Placer County line to the Sutter County line.
- Highway 101 from north city limits of Sausalito to south city limits of Petaluma.
- No. 101 highway north city limits of Petaluma to south city limits of Santa Rosa.
- No. 101 highway north city limits of Santa Rosa to Mendocino County line, exclusive of Healdsburg and Cloverdale.
- No. 12 highway Santa Rosa city limits to west city limits of Sonoma.
- No. 12 highway from Guerneville east city limits line to Santa Rosa west city limits line.
- No. 28 highway from Alexander Valley south to Calistoga north city limit line.
- Nos. 28 and 29 highways from Calistoga south city limit line to Napa city north city line.
- No. 37 highway from Napa east city limit line to junction of No. 101 highway.

SUMMARY

Total number of food supply places inspected.....	161
Conditions satisfactory.....	62
Minor defects.....	51
Insanitary conditions.....	42
Total number of service stations inspected.....	128
Conditions satisfactory.....	70
Minor defects.....	30
Insanitary conditions.....	32

Tuberculosis Report for September

TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL BED CAPACITY

When buildings now in process of construction are finished, there will be 5,100 beds available in California tuberculosis hospitals which are eligible to receive the state subsidy. A new service building and a new infirmary for women will be constructed at the Tulare-Kings Hospital. In Merced County a large bequest has provided for a children's building and \$50,000 more was secured for remodeling a school building so as to make additional wards. A \$60,000 building in Monterey County is nearly ready for occupancy. A \$50,000 building in Orange County and a \$30,000 building for children in Santa Barbara will soon be completed. Siskiyou County has appropriated funds for a new hospital. Remodel-

ing of buildings will be undertaken in San Luis Obispo, San Diego, Santa Clara and Madera counties.

INSPECTIONS

The chief of the bureau inspected tuberculosis hospitals in the following places: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Fresno, Monterey, Merced and Humboldt county.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECORDS AS PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

The following review of a court opinion relative to the availability of health department records to the general public is reprinted from a recent issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*:

"The appellant, Dr. P. E. Marks, was the superintendent of the bureau of infectious diseases of the city of Pittsburgh. In connection with a pending suit by a beneficiary against an insurance company, Dr. Marks was served with a subpoena requiring him to produce the records of his bureau relative to the insured, showing when the insured was reported to the bureau as being tuberculous. Dr. Marks appeared in court pursuant to the subpoena but, on the advice of the city solicitor, refused to produce the records on the ground that it would be against public policy so to do. The court adjudged the witness to be in contempt of court. Thereupon Dr. Marks appealed to the superior court of Pennsylvania.

'There is,' said the court, 'no express statutory provision that the data compiled by the department of health shall constitute public records, except in a very few instances, and the expression of these few instances implies the exclusion of the rest. An examination of the statutes relating to the department of health shows two broad general aims and purposes in view: (1) the collection of vital statistics, such as births, deaths and marriages; (2) the preservation of the public health and the prevention of disease. Data under the first class are gathered for public use and inspection, and the statutes requiring them to be furnished provide that official certificates of the statistics so furnished shall be given to the public on the payment of a small fee. These are public documents, receivable in evidence as an exception to the hearsay rule. But information gathered or received for the preservation of the public health and the prevention of disease is not always and in all cases designed or intended for inspection by the public. It may be contrary to the public interest to allow it to be made public. In the absence of statutory pronouncement on this subject, the officer in charge must be allowed to decide what information so received is proper for publication or general inspection and what should be withheld in the public interest.' The court expressed itself as in agreement with the statement made by the assistant city solicitor, who presented this case on appeal, as follows:

These records are in no true sense of the words 'public records'; they are departmental records. To

thwart the important functions of the Health Department by placing their confidential data in the hands of the general public, would effectively impair the important work performed by this department in the prevention, control and treatment of infectious diseases. It is earnestly submitted that the interests of the public in protecting itself and those afflicted with dangerous infectious diseases far outweighs any benefit that insurance companies or other litigants might gain by reason of ready access to departmental records.

The judgment of the trial court, adjudging the witness in contempt, was therefore reversed. *In re Marks* (Pa.), 183 A. 432."

MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending October 10, 1936

Chickenpox

100 cases: Alameda County 1, Berkeley 2, Hayward 1, Oakland 17, San Leandro 2, Antioch 2, Pittsburg 2, Fresno 1, Los Angeles County 11, Long Beach 8, Los Angeles 5, Pasadena 2, Pomona 2, Hawthorne 1, Marin County 1, Orange County 4, Brea 2, Sacramento 2, San Diego 3, San Francisco 8, Daly City 2, Mountain View 15, Santa Clara 1, Watsonville 3, Healdsburg 1, Yolo County 1.

Diphtheria

29 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno County 3, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Avalon 1, Los Angeles 10, Monterey County 1, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 2, San Diego 3, Santa Barbara 1, Mountain View 1, Yuba City 2.

German Measles

12 cases: Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 1, Montebello 1, Anaheim 1, Brea 1, Placentia 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, Menlo Park 2.

Influenza

17 cases: Los Angeles County 4, Los Angeles 11, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1.

Malaria

3 cases: California.*

Measles

32 cases: Albany 2, Livermore 1, Oakland 5, San Leandro 1, Los Angeles 1, Pasadena 1, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 1, San Diego County 9, San Diego 5, San Francisco 1, Stockton 1, Tracy 1, Healdsburg 1, Turlock 1.

Mumps

333 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 5, Livermore 1, Oakland 6, Gridley 1, Contra Costa County 2, Pittsburg 6, Fresno County 1, Kingsburg 1, Glenn County 1, Willows 2, Humboldt County 2, Imperial County 1, Kern County 6, Los Angeles County 31, Alhambra 6, Avalon 3, Beverly Hills 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 5, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 32, Montebello 1, Pasadena 11, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 2, Whittier 2, Hawthorne 2, South Gate 1, Madera 5, Orange County 17, Anaheim 3, Brea 14, Orange 11, Santa Ana 8, Placentia 2, San Clemente 1, Riverside County 1, Riverside 4, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 17, Redlands 4, San Diego County 6, Chula Vista 1, Escondido 1, National City 7, San Diego 23, San Francisco 19, Santa Barbara County 10, Santa Barbara 2, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Modesto 9, Sutter County 1, Exeter 1, Ventura County 5, Fillmore 7, Santa Paula 2, Yolo County 5, Woodland 1, Marysville 1.

Pneumonia (Lobar)

39 cases: Alameda 1, Hayward 1, Oakland 1, Contra Costa County 1, Imperial County 1, Westmoreland 1, Los Angeles County 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 13, Santa Monica 1, Sierra Madre 1, Monterey County 1, La Habra 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 2, San Francisco 9.

Scarlet Fever

144 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 4, Butte County 1, Chico 2, Antioch 1, Richmond 1, El Dorado County 1, Fresno County 1, Fresno 3, Imperial County 8, Kern County 5, Bakers-

field 1, Lassen County 7, Los Angeles County 6, Beverly Hills 1, Culver City 1, El Monte 1, Huntington Park 3, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 7, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Whittier 1, Merced County 1, Monterey County 1, Monterey 1, Salinas 1, Orange County 2, Anaheim 1, Orange 1, Riverside County 4, Corona 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 30, San Diego 1, San Francisco 10, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 3, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz County 3, Siskiyou County 4, Solano County 1, Vallejo 4, Healdsburg 1, Tulare County 1, Turlock 1, Ventura County 1.

Smallpox

No cases reported.

Typhoid Fever

8 cases: Gridley 1, Richmond 1, Fresno County 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles 1, Fullerton 1, California 2.*

Whooping Cough

180 cases: Alameda County 3, Alameda 4, Berkeley 6, Oakland 1, Crescent City 1, Fresno 1, Glenn County 5, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 6, Bakersfield 2, Los Angeles County 10, Alhambra 5, Azusa 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 33, Pasadena 1, San Gabriel 3, Santa Monica 3, Anaheim 5, Riverside County 1, Corona 1, Sacramento 9, San Diego County 3, Oceanside 15, San Diego 1, San Francisco 21, Lodi 2, San Luis Obispo 4, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 13, Santa Clara County 2, Mountain View 5, San Jose 1, Santa Cruz County 2, Watsonville 1, Tehama County 1, Woodland 2.

Anthrax

One case: Kings County.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Madera County 1, California 1.*

Dysentery (Amoebic)

One case: Redlands.

Dysentery (Bacillary)

One case: Los Angeles.

Pellagra

5 cases: Berkeley 1, Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 2.

Poliomyelitis

10 cases: Kern County 2, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles 3, Pasadena 1, Riverside 1, San Francisco 1, Tulare County 1.

Trachoma

9 cases: Madera County 6, San Diego 2, San Francisco 1.

Tetanus

6 cases: Los Angeles 5, San Diego 1.

Encephalitis (Epidemic)

2 cases: Oakland 1, Richmond 1.

Trichinosis

4 cases: Hayward 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1, San Jose 1.

Undulant Fever

2 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Pasadena 1.

Tularemia

One case: Kings County.

Rabies (Animal)

13 cases: Fresno County 1, Los Angeles County 3, Inglewood 2, Los Angeles 4, Gardena 1, Monterey County 1, Santa Cruz County 1.

After all, God is only Goodness, Goodness is only character, and character is only common sense.—Lady Astor.

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* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.